National statistical business register - Finland

National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure
(ESMS)
Compiling agency: Statistics Finland

Eurostat metadata

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: Eurostat user support

1. Contact
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1.1. Contact organisation	Statistics Finland	
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2. Metadata update
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3.1. Data description	

The statistical business registers (SBR) are basic infrastructure for the collection and compilation of data for European business statistics. The SBR are used as the main source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the definition of the survey population and for establishing the link to administrative data sources.

European statistical business registers should become an authoritative sources for deriving harmonised frame populations for the production of European business statistics. SBR contribute to the achievement of consistent and comparable business statistics by creating and using coordinated populations of statistical units

The national statistical business registers include information on the active population of:

- all enterprises carrying out economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) and their local units;
- the legal units of which those enterprises consist;
- the kind of activity unit for those enterprises which due to their size have a significant influence and whose kind-of-activity units (KAUs) have a significant influence on the aggregated (national) data;
- enterprise groups to which those enterprises belong.

Households shall not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

Local units of foreign enterprises not constituting separate legal entities (branches), and classified as quasi- corporations in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, shall be deemed to be enterprises for the purposes of the national statistical business registers and the EuroGroups Register.

Enterprise groups shall be identified through the links of control between their legal units in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

The main variables recorded in the statistical business registers are the following:

- Identification variables: identification number, name, address;
- Demographic events: date of commencement/cessation of the unit;
- Economic variables/stratification parameters: economic activity (NACE), employment, turnover, legal form, legal activity status;
- Information on control and ownership of units: parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre.

3.2. Classification system

Classification systems and code lists used in the national statistical business register are as follows:

- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2) and its national extension (TOL 2008);
- European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) and its national extension (Sektoriluokitus 2012);
- Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS);
- Legal form, based on a classification of the Finnish Tax Administration;
- Size classes
- Ownership form
- Classification of municipalities in Finland
- Country code (3-digit).

3.3. Coverage - sector

The coverage of the national statistical business registers is defined in the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics.

The national statistical business registers comprise all enterprises resident in the national territory that are carrying out activities contributing to GDP.

Households do not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

The SBR frame covers all units which, wholly or partially, exercise an economic activity and economically inactive legal units, which are part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units. For the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers, the following economic activities are considered:

- any activity comprising the offer of goods and services on a given market;
- non-market services contributing to the GDP;
- direct and indirect holdings of active legal units.

Holding assets and/or liabilities are also considered an economic activity.

The national statistical business register covers the following sectors:

- S.11 non-financial corporations

- S.12 financial and insurance corporations

- S.13 general government

- S.15 non-profit institutions serving households

- S.21 member states and institutions and bodies of the European Union

- S.22 non-member countries and international organisations non-resident of the EU.

The national statistical business register *do not covers* the following sectors:

- S.14 households (only units within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers are covered by the SBR).

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

The main statistical concepts and definitions used for the statistical business registers are as follows:

Annual copy of statistical business register

The annual copy of the statistical business register reflects the state of the register at the end of the year including all units active within the reference year. NSIs have to make a copy annually and keep that copy for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

Active unit

A statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realized positive net turnover or produced outputs or had employees or performed investments.

A legal unit can be legally or administratively active without any economic activity, when the inactive legal unit is part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units. Holding assets and/or liabilities shall also be regarded as an economic activity.

Number of active enterprises

The number of active enterprises is the number of all statistical units which at any time during the reference period were 'enterprises', as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93, and also active during the same reference period. A statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realized positive net turnover or produced outputs or had employees or performed investments.

Number of employees

The number of employees represents the average number of persons who were, at some time during the reference period, employees of the statistical unit.

Number of employees and self-employed persons

The number of employees and self-employed persons is the sum of the Number of employees and Number of self- employed persons. The number of self-employed persons is the average number of persons who were at some time during the reference period the sole owners or joint owners of the statistical unit in which they work. Family workers and outworkers whose income is a function of the value of the outputs of the statistical unit are also included.

Number of local units

A count of the number of local units as defined in Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 registered to the population concerned in the business register corrected for errors, in particular frame errors. Local units must be included even if they have no paid employees. This statistic should include all units active during at least a part of the reference period.

Net turnover

For all activities except for NACE 64, 65 and some activities of NACE 66 net turnover consists of all income arising during the reference period in the course of ordinary activities of the statistical unit, and is presented net of all price reductions, discounts and rebates granted by it.

Income is defined as increases in economic benefits during the reference period in the form of inflows or enhancements of assets or decreases of liabilities that result in increases in equity, other than those relating to contributions from equity participants.

The inflows referred to are arising from contracts with customers and are realized through the satisfaction by the statistical unit of performance obligations as foreseen in said contracts. Usually, a performance obligation is represented by the sale (transfer) of goods or the rendering of services, however, the gross inflows can also contain revenues obtained as a yield on the use by others of the statistical unit's assets.

Excluded from net turnover are:

— all taxes, duties or levies linked directly to revenue;

— any amounts collected on behalf of any principal, if the statistical unit is acting as an agent in its relationship with said principal;

— all income not arising in the course of ordinary activities of the statistical unit. Usually, these types of income are classified as 'Other (operating) income', 'Financial income', 'Extra-ordinary income' or under a similar heading, depending on the respective set of generally accepted accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements.

Infra-annual statistics may not be able to take into account aspects such as annual price reductions, subsidies, rebates and discounts.

For the activities of NACE K6411, K6419 and K649 net turnover is defined as the value of output minus subsidies or government grants.

For the activities of NACE K642 and K643 net turnover can be approximated by the total operating costs, if net turnover is not available in the financial statements.

For the activities of NACE K6511, K6512 and K652 net turnover is defined as Gross premiums earned.

For the activities of NACE K653 the net turnover is defined as total pension contributions

For activities of NACE K66 for which net turnover is not available in the financial statements, net turnover is defined as the value of output minus subsidies or government grants. For activities of NACE K66 for which net turnover is available in the financial statements, the standard definition of net turnover applies.

Principal activity

The principal (or main) activity is the activity that contributes most to the total value added of a unit under consideration. Ideally, the principal activity of the unit should be determined with reference to the value added to the goods and services produced, by applying the top-down method. The top-down method follows a hierarchical principle: the classification of the unit at the lowest level of the classification must be consistent with the classification of the unit at higher levels. The principal activity so identified does not necessarily account for 50 % or more of the unit's total value added.

In the European Union the classification of principal activity is determined by reference to NACE Rev. 2, first at the highest level of classification and then at more detailed levels (top-down method).

Secondary activity

A secondary activity is each separate activity that produces products eventually for third parties and that is not the principal activity. The outputs of secondary activities are secondary products.

More information on statistical concepts and definitions relevant to the statistical business registers could be found in the EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers (2021 edition).

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical units maintained in the national statistical business register are defined in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community, as follows:

- **Enterprise -** the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit.
- **Enterprise group** - an enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production, sales and profits. It may centralize certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic entity, which is empowered to make choices, particularly concerning the units, which it comprises.
- **Kind of activity unit (KAU)** - the kind of activity unit groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at class level (four digits) of NACE and corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of the enterprise. The enterprise's information system must be capable of indicating or calculating for each KAU at least the value of production, intermediate consumption, manpower costs, the operating surplus and employment and gross fixed capital formation.
- **Local unit** - the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (e. g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried out for which - save for certain exceptions - one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

The methods used to implement the statistical units in the national statistical business register are as follows:

- **Enterprise** - Around 40 enterprises consisting of more than 1 LeU are profiled annually using intensive or light profiling, other enterprises are delineated automatically based on LeU data and consist on only 1 LeU.

- **Enterprise group** - Enterprise groups are delineated manually. Relationship information is recorded by updating the information on the direct parent company for each LeU. Information from EGR is updated automatically to the national enterprise group register.

- **Kind-of-activity-unit (KAU)** - KAUs are delineated automatically based on LKAU information. LKAUs are delineated using information from SBR surveys.

- **Local unit** - Local units are delineated automatically based on LKAU information. LKAUs are delineated using information from SBR surveys.

3.6. Statistical population

The national statistical business registers shall be the authoritative source for deriving high quality and harmonised statistical business register populations for the production of European statistics in accordance with Article 8 to the EBS Regulation 2019/2152.

The national statistical business register comprises the following units and applies the following thresholds (if any):

- Enterprise: activity threshold, unit is defined as active if it either has employment or turnover or assets
- Enterprise group
- Kind of Activity unit (KAU)
- Local unit
- Legal unit
- Local kind of activity unit: activity threshold, unit is defined as active if it either has employment or turnover or assets

The national statistical business register includes all enterprises, corporations, self-employed persons and non-profit organisations that are liable to pay value added tax or have paid employees; all central government agencies, municipalities and joint municipal boards; all economically active (and inactive) legal units which are registered by the Tax Administration to conduct business activities in Finland. Activity status is determined based on several administrative and survey sources. Inactive legal units are not part of a SBR frame, but data on these units are stored in SBR database and updated automatically purely from administrative sources.

3.7. Reference area

The reference area for national statistical business register is the territory of the country. Concerning enterprise groups any country outside the national territory may be relevant.

3.8. Coverage - Time

The national statistical business register was established in 1968.

The statistical units are implemented and maintained in the national statistical business register as follows:

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since reference year 1995.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since reference year 2017 (introduced to the SBR in reference year 2013, but during 2013-2016 enterprise was equal to legal unit).
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since reference year 2006.
- Kind of activity unit – implemented and maintained since reference year 2021.

3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure Top

The economic variables on employment are recorded in absolute figures.
The net turnover is recorded in absolute figures (1 Euro).

5. Reference Period Top

The reference period for the annual copy of the national statistical business register is a calendar year.

An annual copy that reflects the state of the national statistical business registers at the end of the year is taken and kept for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

The latest available copy of the national statistical business register consists of the final annual master frame for 2021 reference year.

In this annual copy, the economic variables (number of employees, turnover and economic activity) refer to the 2021 reference year.

6. Institutional Mandate Top

6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements

Legal acts and other agreements - EU level

- Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics;
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics.

Legal acts and other agreements - national level

- Statistics Act of Finland (280/2004)

6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing

The EBS Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 lays down provisions on the exchange of and access to confidential data for the purpose of the European framework for statistical business registers.

The Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2020/1197 lays down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152, including technical specifications for the exchange of confidential data for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers.

At national level, the following agreements or procedures for data sharing and data exchange between national authorities have been established:

- SBR sends data on legal units (Legal Unit ID, Name, NACE code, SNA code and size class) monthly to Bank of Finland.
- SBR sends data on legal units (Identification characteristics, demographic characteristics, location data, contact information, NACE code, legal form, ownership type, SNA code, relationship information) monthly to Finnish Customs.
- SBR sends data on legal units, enterprise groups and foreign affiliates annually to Finnish Customs
- Bank of Finland sends data on financial institutions, monetary funds and investment funds monthly or quarterly to SBR
- Finnish Customs sends data on imports and exports monthly to SBR

Besides the agreements for data sharing listed above, SBR exploits several administrative data sources: e.g. Tax Administration (customer register, register of business taxes, incomes register, agriculture and forestry tax data), Bank of Finland (institutional sector codes for legal units within financial sector), National Board of Customs (importer/exporter, intrastat), National Board of Patents and Registration (financial statements), Finnish Business Information System (address and contact information), State Treasury (central government units), Finnish Centre for Pensions (self employed persons' pension insurance).

7. Confidentiality   Top

7.1. Confidentiality - policy

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164) on European statistics stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

The following policy rules are applied at national level:

- Statistics Act (280/2004)
- Rules of Statistics Finland's Research services (https://www.stat.fi/static/media/uploads/tup_en/mikroaineistot/tilastokeskuksen_tutkijapalveluiden_saannot_en.pdf)

Annexes:
Rules of Statistics Finland's Research services

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

According to policy rules (see section 7.1).

8. Release policy   Top

8.1. Release calendar

The preliminary frames of the national statistical business register are released according to the statistical user needs, as follows:

- T+ 9 months to STS domain;
- T+ 9 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 10 months to FATS;
- T+ 9 months to ITGS;
- T+ 9 months to ITSS;
- T+ 9 months to CIS (Community Innovation Survey);
- T+ 9 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 9 months to R&D;
- T+5 months to National Accounts

- T+ 9 months to other domains.

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+ 12 months.

Besides official preliminary and final frames, the users of SBR information also have direct data access to live SBR register.

8.2. Release calendar access

Not applicable.

8.3. Release policy - user access

The statistical users get access to the SBR frames or receive required data in the following way:

- Preliminary frame: Database access for the persons within NSI who have the access rights according to their needs.
- Final frame: Database access within NSI for the persons who have the access rights according to their needs. A suppressed and anonymised version of the annual frozen frame is provided for research use.

9. Frequency of dissemination

The SBR preliminary frames are provided to statistical users with the following frequency:

- T+5 for national accounts.
- T+9 for other statistical domains.
- for sampling purposes according to user needs (few times a year).

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+12 months. The annual copy is kept for 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

10. Accessibility and clarity

10.1. Dissemination format - News release

Statistics Finland publishes short news release as part of official publications (see 10.2.), but usually there are no separate news releases linked to the SBR data.

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

- Enterprise openings and closures (https://stat.fi/en/statistics/aly), quarterly

- Data on enterprises and enterprise groups is published as a part of Structural business and financial statement statistics (https://stat.fi/en/statistics/yrti), annually (preliminary T+9, final T+12)

- Data on establishments is published as part of Regional statistics on entrepreneurial activity (https://stat.fi/en/statistics/alyr), annually (preliminary T+9, final T+12)

Annexes:
Enterprise openings and closures
Structural business and financial statement statistics
Regional statistics on entrepreneurial activity

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

In connection with the annual publications (see 10.2.), public online databases are released containing a broad amount of aggregated information on e.g. enteprises and establishment by region and industry

- Enterprise openings and closures: StatFin database (https://pxdata.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__aly/?tablelist=true)
- Structural business and financial statement statistics: StatFin database (https://pxdata.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__yrti/?tablelist=true)
- Regional statistics on entrepreneurial activity: StatFin database (https://pxdata.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__alyr/?tablelist=true)

Statistics Finland also maintains a search tool for the basic information on individual enterprises, but the tool is available only in Finnish (https://www.stat.fi/yty/)

Annexes:
Enterprise openings and closures, StatFin database

[Structural business and financial statement statistics, StatFin database](#)
[Regional statistics on entrepreneurial activity, StatFin database](#)

10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

The NSI exchange microdata with the Commission (Eurostat) for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers.

The data and metadata are exchanged in electronic form and transmitted using the ESS data and metadata standards as specified by the Commission (Eurostat).

The SBR microdata are provided to the authorized statistical users, as follows:

- Direct database access to DW database for all statistical users within NSI who need SBR information for e.g. survey frames or statistical production. Access to the DW database is not restricted based on statistical domains.

NSI exchange microdata with NCB for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers in order to ensure the quality of multinational enterprise group information in the European Union.

Anonymised micro-data are provided to researchers via secured environment according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes (https://www.stat.fi/tup/mikroaineistot/index_en.html).

- A specific license needs to be applied and granted. The data may only be used for the purpose stated in the decision. The data shall also be treated as confidential and may not be turned over to others without permission from Statistics Finland. All persons who will participate in handling of the data shall sign a pledge of secrecy.

- See also microdata confidentiality rules in 7.

10.5. Dissemination format - other

The aggregated data on national statistical business register are provided annually to Eurostat in electronic form and transmitted via EDAMIS.

Tailor-made data sets available on request for external users. Certain basic business register data are specifically defined and made public by the Statistics Act (240/2008). For example, identification data on enterprises and establishments with their location and NACE codes are regularly delivered outside the NSI to various users and interest groups. This service can be subject to a charge.

National statistical business register is the main source for the Business demography statistics that provide information for active enterprises in the business economy, the births, deaths and survival rates of enterprises, as well as information on related employment data. In the business demography domain, the business economy covers sections B to N, excluding activities of holding companies – K64.2 (NACE Rev.2).

10.6. Documentation on methodology

[European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – edition 2021](#) outlines the methodology to be used for the national statistical institutes.

A standardised methodology report describing data, concepts, source data and data collections, methods, principles and outlines, comparability, accuracy, reliability and timeliness is published in relation to all official statistics, including the publications mentioned in 10.2.

10.7. Quality management - documentation

ESS Data Quality Programme for statistical business registers is available on [CIRCABC](#).

SBR quality control inquiry is compiled annually and a respective report is compiled. The quality control inquiry is used to examine the correctness of industry and location information for small single-establishment enterprises.

11. Quality management [Top](#)

11.1. Quality assurance

The quality is assured by applying the following quality management and assurance procedures:

- Guidelines and standards on quality in statistics have been compiled at Statistics Finland and are based on the Code of Practice.

- Automated validation rules for all the administrative and survey data are in place. The rules refer to the format and logical content of the data. Automated checkings are utilised for the data in the production database and e.g. big differences between sources or big changes are marked and investigated manually.

- The quality is assessed through a quality control inquiry mentioned in 10.7. Coverage analysis of the description area has been completed regularly to monitor the completeness and relevance of the register content as well.

11.2. Quality management - assessment

The quality of statistical business register is monitored according the quality assurance procedure described in concept 11.1.

The overall assessment results could be summarised as follows:

Main strengths and weaknesses according to the standard quality criteria: Strengths are the good coverage and quality of administrative data and efficient linking of administrative and survey data. In-house cooperation in data collection between business register, SBS and regional employment statistics is an asset as well as internal cooperation regarding the classifications (NACE, SNA). After a large revision project, the Business Register is situated in an integrated system with all the relevant businsess statistics sharing the unit structures, classifications and relevant concepts, which has resulted in elimination of overlapping work phases and enabled more coherent statistical outputs. Previous clear weakness (i.e. enterprise unit was not fully implemented) has been corrected, although there is still room for further development, especially considering the number of complex enterprises and use of automated profiling methods. A threat is the diminishing response rates.

Results from the reference year 2021 quality control inquiry:
- 96 % of single-establishment enterprises had no new establishments
- 98 % of enterprises had correct information on NACE code (using national extention of NACE classification)
- 99 % of enterprises had correct location information (municipality)
- 95 % of enterprises had correct address information
- response rate was 63 %

NSBR Quality report 2022 compliance assessment:
- points received 97 (minor non-compliance)

12. Relevance

12.1. Relevance - User Needs

SBR are important for the compilation of consistent and comparable European business statistics, establishing efficient statistical survey frames, providing identification numbers of all the units and for linking to many different sources, increasing statistical information and reducing the reporting burden on enterprises.
SBR are referred to as the 'backbone' in the production of economic statistics because they provide the core infrastructure to ensure data consistency between various statistical outputs.

- SBR operates on a common paltform with all the central business statistics and in so all the needs and feedback of these statistics as well as National Accounts are commonly reviewed. The processes are adapted when needed and agreed, which is done within appropriate timetable. Processes are from time to time adapted according to e.g. user needs from the micro data services as well.

- Feedback and co-operation groups between experts from different statistical domains as well as with representatives of users outside the NSI.

12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

Since 2017, Eurostat together with the EU Member States conducts SBR user survey addressing users and potential users of the national statistical business registers (NSBR) and the EuroGroups Register (EGR).
The latest SBR User Survey 2020 show that the NSBR are widely used at national level and users consider that its quality had been significantly improved in the recent years. Most of the NSBR users (97%) had either no issue or manageable issue regarding business registers coverage, units, variables, timeliness and frequency of frames.
The results of the SBR User Survey 2020 are available on CIRCABC.

12.3. Completeness

The completeness of national statistical business registers is annually assessed by Eurostat. The SBR assessment results are provided to EU Member States and EFTA countries and presented at the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG).

Data completeness rate and missing variables or data in the national statistical business register are as follows (NSBR Quality report 2022, reference year 2020):

- There are no mandatory characteristics missing, but there were variables with missing values (total % of missing mandatory characterisics 1 %)

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  - Legal unit: address (10 % missing)
  - Local unit: address (9 % missing), number of employees and self-employed persons (2 % missing), number of employees (2 % missing)
  - Enterprise: number of employees (1 % missing)
  - Enterprise group: EGR identity number (3 % missing)

- Missing conditional characteristics
    - Legal unit: VAT number(s) on non-resident LeU(s) which are controlled by the LeU, VAT number of the non-resident LeU which controls the LeU
    - Local unit: secondary activities, reference to associated registers in which the LoU appears
- There are no missing conditional variables and optional variables

13. Accuracy

13.1. Accuracy - overall

The main issues regarding accuracy of the data are as follows:

- Undercoverage: mainly insignificant, some local units may be missng due to nonresponse in SBR surveys
- Overcoverage: marginal, information on cessation may update with delay
- Misclassification: some, NACE or other classification information may be incorrect in administrative data sources and remain incorrect due to nonresponse in SBR surveys
- Measurement error due to estimation: estimation on employees and entrepreneurs may produce some measurement error
- Measurement error due to wrong identification: non-existent

The actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve accuracy of the data are as follows:

- Re-designing of the SBR surveys is ongoing
- Updates and corrections to programmes are made when problems are encountered
- Implementation of Incomes register data produces better estimates on employment variables

13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable.

13.3. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

14.1. Timeliness

Preliminary frames are available 9 months after the reference year T.

- Frame for national accounts is published 5 months after the reference year T and frame for sampling purposes according to user needs.

Final frame is available 12 months after the reference year T.

Reasons for the time lag (i.e. why preliminary frames are available 5/9 months after the reference year T and final frame after 12 months; frames were available according to the planned timetable):

- SBR surveys start in November or December, and SBR experts need time to process and edit the survey information
- Timetables of administrative data

14.2. Punctuality

Aggregated data for the SBR final frame are provided annually to Eurostat according the deadline agreed by the Statistical Business Registers Working Group.

The SBR frames are provided on time to statistical users with regard to their needs and the agreed time frame, as follows:

- Preliminary frame for survey purposes: according to needs (quarterly-monthly)

- Preliminary frame for national accounts, annually (T+5 months)

- Preliminary frame for statistical purposes, annually (T+9 months)

- Final frame, annually (T+12 months)

Outline the reasons for the delay (if any).

- There were no delays

15. Coherence and comparability

15.1. Comparability - geographical

The geographical comparability of national statistical business registers is ensured by the application of common definitions of the statistical units laid down in the Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93.

The SBR variables are harmonised and set up in accordance with the Annex VIII to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics. Further guidelines on the variables implementation in the national statistical business registers are given in the EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers (2021 edition).

15.2. Comparability - over time

The comparability over time of the frames results from the information provided in concept 3.8.

- NSBR frames prior to reference year 2013 are not comparable to later reference years due to a large revision project within business statistics

15.3. Coherence - cross domain

The NSBR frame provides information on the active population of enterprises carrying out economic activities which contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP), the legal units of which those enterprises consist of, local units, kind of activity units and enterprise groups, incl. all-resident and multinational enterprise groups.

The national statistical business register is used by statistical users as a coordinated frame population in order to derive consistent statistical output. In Finland the concepts, classifications and working practices between SBR and SBS have been harmonised within the implementation of a common production system in 2013. The data are in a common data warehouse which serves as an input for several other statistics including National Accounts. Former case specific differences in industrial classification, turnover and personnel data as well as in the treatment of enterprise reorganisations (e.g. mergers) exist no more.

The reasons for lack of coherence with other statistical domains are as follows:

- The criteria of activity and the delineation rules of the population base which is taken into account in the national publications may sometimes differ.
- Reference times may differ between statistical statistics, e.g. reference year vs. fixed reference date.

15.4. Coherence - internal

The SBR data included in the final frame are internally consistent.

16. Cost and Burden

Annual operational costs of the SBR processes are based on Statistics Finland's accounts and aligned to different sub-items according to accounting standards. For example, there are no data acquisition costs from commercial sources or IT costs to be aligned specifically to only SBR. Statitics Finland's organisational restructuring in autumn 2020 affected groupings of business statistics under new organisational units and had also an impact on available sub-items to be aligned to SBR. Annual operational costs of the SBR processes are (calendar year 2022, reference year 2021):

- Human resources in FTE: 11.5
- Annual costs in euro: 633 700

Preparations for health and social services reform, where the responsibility for organising these services was transferred from municipalities to wellbeing services counties in 1.1.2023, have caused extra costs in SBR during 2022 and 2023. Estimate of the respondent burden includes only the respondent burden related to direct data collection and not the burden related to data collection from public sources:

- Annual burden in hours: 3250

17. Data revision

17.1. Data revision - policy

- Revision policy: Data is updated/revised and completed until the final frame. Reason for this is that updates from administrative sources and SBR surveys are downloaded to the database monthly/weekly/daily. After the final frame, only significant differences are revised if such occur on a later stage.
- Regular dates for revisions: After the final frame, only ad hoc.

- Average number of revisions: After the final frame, 0 or 1 per (reference) year.
- Main reasons for revisions and indication of benefit: Latest larger revision (after the final frame) concerned NACE codes of certain enterprises.

17.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable

18. Statistical processing

18.1. Source data

The national statistical business registers is set up in accordance with EBS Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 using any relevant data sources while avoiding excessive burden on respondents and taking due account of the cost effectiveness of the NSAs. NSI uses the following data sources, including a combination thereof for the national statistical business register:

- Direct data collection (surveys)
- Administrative data sources
  - Tax Administration
  - Bank of Finland
  - National Board of Customs
  - National Board of Patents and Registration
  - Finnish Business Information System
  - National Post Company
  - State Treasury
  - Finnish Centre for Pensions
  - Digital and population data services agency

18.2. Frequency of data collection

The national statistical business registers shall be updated by means of entries and removals at least annually. The frequency of updating shall depend on the kind of unit, the variable considered, the size of the unit and the source generally used for the update.

The frequency of updating the units and variables in the national statistical business register is as follows:

- Legal units - montly/annually
  - administrative sources: identification characteristics, demographic characteristics, relationship information and activity monthly; monetary variables and employment annually
  - survey information: annually
- Enterprises - montly/annually
  - administrative sources: identification characteristics, demographic characteristics, relationship information and activity monthly; monetary variables and employment annually
  - survey information: annually
- Local units - annually
- Kind of activity units - annually
- Enterprise groups - annually

18.3. Data collection

Statistical business registers use data from administrative and statistical data sources, and from any other relevant sources that are comparable and compliant with the applicable specific quality requirements. For more details please see 18.1.

18.4. Data validation

Statistical analysis of the national statistical business register is carried out to ensure the quality of data and frame populations provided to users.
Data validation procedures include:

- Format and file structure checks: Administrative data go through technical validation process before entering the production system.

- Logical checks: before updating incoming data to SBR database, datasets are run through logical checks, e.g. postal codes and municipality codes are compared to find and correct conflicting or erroneous information and datalines.

- Intra-file checks: Automatic summarization (from establishments to enterprise level) is used in websurveys.

- Intra-domain, intrasource checks (e.g time series checks): Reports from technical validation of administrative data (including information on e.g. number of observations, frequencies and totals) are compared to reports from previous month and/or year.

- Intra-domain, intersource checks (e.g. mirror checks): Validation and checking programs compare information from different sources (administrative sources and/or surveys) and over years (current vs. previous reference year).

- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains inside the NSI: The SBR receives regular feedback from other statistical domains because several domains (SBR, SBS, STS, national accounts) use information from Statistics Finland's Integrated business statistics production system (YTY).

- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains outside the NSI: It is possible to perform (or run) consistency checks between the SBR and publicly available sources such as the Business Information System (YTJ).

18.5. Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- Data from SBR surveys is updated usually weekly and data from administrative sources usually monthly using SQL and SAS programmes stored in process management.
  - Combining data from different sources is usually easy because both survey data and administrative data include unique business ID
- If information is available for a variable (e.g. address, date of commencement of activities, date of cessation of actitivies) from more than one source, each data source is given a data source code and priority rules are built based on these source codes.

The frame populations and annual copy of national statistical business register are produced as follows:

- Live register is continuously updated with new information about the units and their characteristics/variables, with the latest information replacing the older one.
- Frame populations are formed from live register and include only units that were active during reference period.
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Estimates for the emplyment (FTE and headcount) are compiled on enterprise level for all enterprises. Estimates are used as a primary indicator of employees for the units for which data from inquiries is not available. This includes small single establishment enterprises and the non-respondent multi establishment enterprises. Main source is Tax Administration's data on wages, which contains a link between enterprise and individual employee. A regression model is used to estimate the expected value of the wages for a certain individual. Employee and enterprise characteristics are utilized in the model; including the level of education, occupation, age, gender, industry code, location of the workplace, institutional sector. Model compares the expected value to the actually paid wages to get full-time equivalent labour input for every employee in corresponding enterprises. For the enterprise level, the FTE labour input is then calculated simply by summing up the labour inputs of enterprise's employees.

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Self-employed persons (FTE and head count) are estimated utilising an iterative cross-checking process of several different administrative sources stored within the NSI. These sources include the Tax Administration's wages and salaries, the database of Finnish Centre for Pensions including data on self employed persons' pension insurance, databases on associates and ownership information of the Finnish Tax Administration and a database on family relationships.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment   [Top]

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